

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING CAROLYN LERNER

HON. ROD BLUM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Ms. Carolyn Lerner for her service as Special Counsel at the Office of Special Counsel (OSC). This is her last week at OSC after six years leading the Office.

OSC has the enormous and important task of policing the executive branch against prohibited personnel practices, including retaliation against whistleblowers.

Ms. Lerner began her work at OSC in June 2011, and her impact there has been extremely positive. With her at the helm, OSC increased both the number of complaints it investigated and the number of cases it resolved. The agency has won widespread bipartisan praise for its work, including resolving multiple cases of retaliation against whistleblowers at the Veterans Administration.

As co-chairman of the House Whistleblower Protection Caucus and member of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, I know how vitally important whistleblowers are to Congressional oversight of the federal government. The brave men and women who have the courage to expose abuse and fraud in their workplaces deserve to be protected, and under Ms. Lerner's leadership, OSC has done just that.

It has been a pleasure to work with Ms. Lerner since coming to Congress. As her time at OSC comes to an end, I wish again to thank her for her service to our nation and her tireless commitment to protecting whistleblowers. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING THE DEER PARK DEER FOR THEIR STATE CHAMPIONSHIP VICTORY

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Deer Park High School Deer for winning the Texas University Interscholastic League (UIL) 6A Baseball State Championship. The Deer accumulated a record of 35–8 on the way to the state title with playoff wins against: Summer Creek, Pearland, Clear Springs, Ridge Point, Fort Bend Travis, and Southlake Carroll. This is the first baseball championship for Deer Park and the fourth time the school has made it to the state tournament.

On June 10, 2017, the Deer dispatched San Antonio Reagan in the championship game by a score of 7–2 at the Dell Diamond in Round Rock. Four players were named to the All-Tournament Team: Clay Aguilar, Chase Keng,

Blake Martin, and Adrian Gonzales who was named Tournament Most Valuable Player (MVP). These young men have shown incredible persistence, hard work, passion and commitment to accomplish this feat and I applaud each and every one of them. I would like to personally recognize each student and their coaches.

Players: Mark Barrow, Connor Berry, Tyler Stenberg, Blaine Holden, Reece Moon, Jacobe Martinez, Clay Aguilar, Chase Keng, Christian Vela, Dylan Pullig, Josiah Ortiz, Austin Mitchell, Taylor Lee, Connor Williams, Jordan Phillips, JT Satterwhite, Peyton Sherlin, Chase Duncan, Adrian Gonzales, Blake Martin, and Kolton Fowler. Head Coach: Chris Rupp. Assistant Coaches: Donnie Elliott, Darren Schneider, Austin Yager, Jacob Rhame, and David White. Athletic Trainers: Jim Davidson, Lori Mahan, and David Vlacovsky. Managers: Gabby Gallegos and McKade Whittington. Student Trainer: Zachary Domingue.

I wish each one of them continued success on and off the baseball field. Go Deer!

IN RECOGNITION OF THE BORBA FAMILY

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Borba family's contribution to the agriculture industry of California and their strong presence in California's Central Valley for over one hundred years.

The Borba family's legacy began when Ms. Anna Borba emigrated from the Azores, Portugal to the United States in the late 1800's. Anna's son, A.J. Borba, moved to California's Central Valley in the early 1900's to begin the family's agriculture venture, and established a dairy in Riverdale, California. In the 1940's, A.J. and his sons, Ross, Sr., and Darril, began focusing on a row crop operation with the goal of introducing cotton to the Central Valley. In 1958, the brothers officially began Borba Brothers Farms on the west side of Fresno County.

In 1942, Ross, Sr. married Justina "Tina" Urrizola and continued to farm in Riverdale while raising their two sons, Ross, Jr. and Mark, and their daughter, Dwayne. In 1976, Ross, Jr. and Mark acquired the family business after their father and uncle retired. In their retirement, Ross, Sr. and Tina established the Rancho Vista del Rio on San Joaquin River near Fresno. Currently, Rancho Vista del Rio serves as the home and horse ranch of Mark and his wife, Peggy Borba, and is often used as a venue for Fresno County community events.

Today, the fifth generation of Borbas is represented by Mark and Peggy's son, Derek. Derek and his wife, Jennifer, operate the farming and custom farm management business.

As custom farm operators, they perform machine operations on partnered farms in Westlands Water District. Having survived years of drought, the farming operation encompasses 9,000 acres of almonds, tomatoes, garlic, melons, lettuce, wheat, and Pima cotton on the Valley's west side.

The Borba family has significantly contributed to the Central Valley's agriculture industry through philanthropy, financial support, and leadership of organizations including the California Agriculture Leadership Foundation, Sequoia Council Boy Scouts, Valley Teen Ranch, and Ag One. The family has also made a lasting impression on many in their community. The Borba family understands the incredible importance of education, and has continuously supported Riverdale Unified School District, San Joaquin College of Law, and Pacific Legal Foundation. Members of the Borba family have volunteered and provided support to their local health and wellness organizations and support services including Community Medical Center, Saint Agnes Medical Center, Valley Children's Hospital, and the Marjaree Mason Center. In acknowledgment of his and his family's contributions and accomplishments, Mark Borba was awarded the U.C. Davis 1996 Award of Distinction. Mark was also influential in establishing the Ross Borba, Sr. Scholarship Endowment for agricultural college students. Additionally, Borba Farms, Inc. received the 2007 Baker, Peterson, and Franklin, CPA, LLP, Agricultural Business Award in recognition of its impact on the agricultural industry and Central San Joaquin Valley.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Borba family for their contributions to the Central Valley and their presence in the agriculture industry for over five generations.

RECOGNIZING THE VIETNAMESE ARMED FORCES DAY CEREMONY

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize the Vietnamese Armed Forces Day Ceremony at the Vietnam War Memorial in Denver, Colorado. This ceremony seeks to honor the efforts of all of those who fought in Vietnam and commemorate the 42nd Anniversary of the Fall of Saigon.

As a U.S. Marine Corps combat veteran, I understand the importance that duty and sacrifice for one's country is not something unique to the United States military. In fact, the Vietnam Memorial in Denver serves as a reminder of those sacrifices made not only by the Americans who fought there, but reminds us here in the U.S. of the hardships endured by the South Vietnamese themselves. Most importantly, the Memorial also serves as a symbol of friendship and shared struggle to defend freedom and liberty, in which the United

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